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For Immediate Release:
July 30, 2010
News Release: 10-43

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Army Corps of Engineers member honored for support to Haiti

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA – Forpu A. Njikam, a civil engineer with the [U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Savannah District](#), received The Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award for his contributions while deployed to Haiti as part of an American earthquake recovery force.

Njikam was part of the Corps' disaster response contingent conducting engineering assessments on canals, lakes, roads, and displaced persons camps. The assessments provided information that multiple U.S. and international agencies used to aid the people of Haiti. Njikam also provided engineering assessments of highways to bring them back to a usable condition, as well as to prevent further damage to the road systems. In addition, he provided assessments of drainage canals in the vicinity of

displacement camps within the Port-au-Prince region. His work with the team led to non-governmental organizations' clean-up, and reduction of the flood risk to area drainage basins.

Njikam served in Haiti from March through May as part of Operation Unified Response with Joint Task Force-Haiti, Port-au-Prince. The magnitude 7.0 earthquake, which struck on Jan. 12 about 10 miles southwest of Haiti's capital, destroyed much of the country's infrastructure and buildings. The quake was the worst in the region in more than 200 years causing between \$7 and \$13 billion and catastrophic damage in Port-au-Prince and other heavily-populated settlements in the region. The Corps provided technical engineering and real estate planning, and disaster response assistance in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Southern Command and other federal agencies for the on-going disaster response and recovery operations.

As project manager and resident engineer for two shelter camps, he contributed to the creation of numerous projects and developed plans to prevent the loss of life and reduce the suffering of the Haitian people within these camps.

Njikam, born of Cameroonian parents in Boston, Mass., grew up in Cameroon. He is fluent in English and French, the official language of Haiti. Njikam graduated from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro, N.C., with a master's degree in Civil Environmental Engineering and a bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Bio-systems Engineering. He began his career with the Corps as a Department of Army intern with the Savannah District in 2007.